

# *Presencing Awareness*

## **The Territory Beyond - Being Game**

Exploring The Territory Beyond – Playfully:

Axioms for Crystallizing - Soulfully

U Lab Edinburgh College Hub

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# The Territory Beyond: Pathway to Prototyping

*Pathways to Possibility ~ Transforming Our Relationship with Ourselves, Each Other and the World* (Zander; Viking, 2016)

## Ch. 26 ~ **The Territory Beyond ~ You in Partnership (1 of 2)**

“We’ve come to a new territory – the Territory Beyond – beyond what we know and expect of ourselves as human beings, beyond the norms of achievement or psychology, beyond our ordinary measures of happiness, and beyond what we picture as vitality. Let’s say that in this territory the distinction between what it is that **we** want and what **life** wants fades and ultimately disappears. We feel whole and in tune and easily imagine that we are resonating with the shimmering oscillations of the very energy fields of the earth itself. Grateful for Nature’s collaborative presence, we deem ourselves to be joyfully capable of all we can imagine” (189)

# The Territory Beyond: Pathway to Prototyping

*Pathways to Possibility ~ Transforming Our Relationship with Ourselves, Each Other and the World* (Zander; Viking, 2016)

**Ch. 26 ~ The Territory Beyond ~ You in Partnership (2 of 2)**

“You can’t get there all by yourself, because in truth there is no such thing as a human being by herself. We don’t exist alone. Having the thought of one other being, seeing one point of light on the opposite shore, remembering one song of love is enough to animate you and prepare you to dwell in the Territory. As you may have guessed, what we are calling the Territory Beyond is located inside **you** where all creation resides... (where) your every deed sends ripples throughout the cosmos... a deeper level of reality than we are familiar with... (where) friends know things about each other at a distance... (where) mind and matter are felt as one, which means that we will fare best if we are quite disciplined in what we say and intend” (189-190).

# **Beyond Our Wilds: Being at home in The Territory Beyond**

- The best prototyping comes out of the deep crystallizing...
- ... that occurs as we come out of the bottom of the U, and up the other side...
- ... after we have sensed 'The Territory Beyond'... that maps the contours of our soul.
- What might be crystallizing for us?...
- The facets of the crystal through which we begin to see the point - and pointers - of our prototype...
- Beyond our 'wilds'... at home in The Territory Beyond...

# Into Our Wilds: A Pathway to Possibility?

- Earlier, we sought to place our souls... in our comparative wilds
- We checked-in with our wild side...
- Helped by Parker Palmer's reflections on 'The Primacy of Soul' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8PxnEILu8E>
- And we encountered the 'wild animal' metaphor ... wild, natural, elemental, primal
- Let's try extending that metaphor, by playing the 'being game', and being game
- Putting some soul-affirming principles in play, that we cannot but build in to our prototyping.

# Playing the Being Game

- Parker Palmer offered the interpretation of soul as ‘the being in human being’
- Rosamund Zander has offered the perspective of a different type of game – an infinite, open-ended, generative game (after James Carse)
- Think of (the) being game as the context for some ‘serious play’, to get us well into ‘the territory beyond’... on a horizons-broadening pathway to the possibility in prototyping...
- By coming into good communion with our soul - in right relation, resonating, vibrating with it...
- To presence – to crystallize - some axioms for any and all prototyping – intrinsic, inherent qualities or principles
- Let’s play the being game... by being game.

# Into Our Wilds: Axioms for Wildness

*Alive to the thrill / Of the wild / Meet the dawn / On a mountain /  
Wash your face / in the morning dew.*

*Feel the favour of the earth / Go out naked in the wind /  
Your skin / Almost Aeolian.*

*With the music inside / Dance like there is no outside / Become subtle enough /  
To hear a tree breathe.*

*Sleep by the ocean / Letting yourself unfurl / Like the reeds that swirl /  
Gradually on the sea floor.*

*Try to watch a painting from within / How it holds what it never shows.*

*The mystery of your face / Showing what you never see.*

*See your imagination dawn / Around the rim of your world.*

*Feel the seamless silk of the ocean / Womb you in ancient buoyancy.*

*Feel the wild imprint of surprise / When you are taken in  
by your lover's eyes.*

*Succumb to warmth in the heart / Where divine fire glows.*

John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us*

# Axioms for Crystallizing

- Earlier we considered John O'Donohue's *Axioms for Wildness*
- How might we 'game' our prototyping to automatically build in respect of/regard for '*axioms for crystallizing*' – extraordinary performance criteria, that are effectively – cumulatively - transformative?
- We are in the territory of James Carse's '**infinite** games'... where 'there are no winners or losers, and no defined end, only an inspiring purpose'
- Whereas finite games 'will progressively wear out our souls'... 'infinite games will only energize us'
- Players of infinite games are 'evolutionary'... 'the joyful poets of a story that continues to originate from what they cannot finish' (Zander, 2016, 194-195)
- Are you game for exploring some crystallizing axioms?



# Crystallizing Facets – Prototyping Anticipations

- What ‘being-ness’ might you wish to manifest, from your heart and soul?
- What ‘being-ness’ might you wish for any prototype you advance – its essence?
- Rosamund Zander has nominated seven qualities/principles... that seem to merit consideration as ‘axioms for crystallizing’
- They are guiding principles for a well-lived life, and for life-affirming prototyping
- To play the game you pick one, and play with it, seriously, obsessively...
- And when you’ve ‘mastered’ it, you pick another, and then another... until all are embedded, and embodied, in you, and in your work in the world.

# **(Candidate) Axioms for Crystallizing**

(after Rosamund Zander,  
*Pathways to Possibility*, 2016, p. 197)

Wonder

Desire

Service

Authenticity

Vitality

Lightness

Courage

# Instructions for playing ‘the being game’

(after Rosamund Zander, *Pathways to Possibility* p.198)

- Pick one of these qualities – each day, for the next seven days - and commit to making every decision in line with that choice.
- At each decision point, whether it be choosing stocks or socks, or speaking to a colleague, you ask yourself (depending on which you are ‘signed up for’ that particular day)...
- ‘What is the courageous choice? Or what is it I really desire’ Or ‘What conversation do I have if I am living a life of service?’
- Write the word on your person (the palm of your hand?), because it is easy to forget what you are doing.
- Include arising choices from the smallest to the most consequential.
- See where the (infinite) game takes you; once the game is in play, stay with the quality you chose each day.
- No substituting; no nuancing; no re-framing; no sweat – just the bare quality/principle... until you stop one ‘game-day’, and start another.

# Playing the Game – Outing your Soul-Self

- Let your experiences flow and grow... until you have several, or all seven, day-games under your belt
- These infinite games are intended primarily ‘to take us further into the unknown’ (our unknowns), and ‘promote our growth’ – beyond our latest plateaux, ‘like a tow-rope to pull us out of (our) habitual decision-making patterns’
- We might begin to notice what qualities we most easily ‘inhabit’ – for ‘bolting in’ to our prototype, or that are ‘a comparative drag’... that need more (inner?) work perhaps.
- Channel any learning into your prototyping, letting your prototype serve as a vehicle for promoting these qualities/principles more generally, alongside its specific purpose or intent
- Consider sharing your experience at the next hub gathering, with an interest in the **co-learning** in all this, and in prospective partnering with others – beyond solo, into ‘shoal-o’; beyond ego into eco; where your ‘willing’ and your ‘souling’ align
- Manifesting the being in human being, and be-com-ing - together